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MUSI 180.01: Composition I

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Course Information

Course Title and Number:	Composition I, MUSI 180
Meeting Times and Locations:	TR 1:10 - 2:00 PM
Professor:	Dr. Simon Hutchinson
eMail:	simon.hutchinson@umontana.edu
Office:	Room 203
Office Hours:	TBA

Objectives

- Improve your compositional craft through the creation of solo (monophonic) works
- Build your relationship with written notation and develop your score craft
- Gain experience thinking and writing critically about works of music and compositional techniques

Text

- Gardener Read, *Music Notation: A Manual for Modern Practice* (available at the bookstore)
- I will post additional materials on Moodle: <http://umonline.umt.edu/>

Other Required Materials

- Manuscript paper
- You must also keep up with correspondence to your University of Montana account

Grading

Your grade will be weighed as follows:

Composition Project 1 : 15%
Composition Project 2 : 20%
Listening Journals (15) : 45% (3% each)
Other Assignments (TBA) = 10%
Professionalism = 10%

Composition Project 1

Your first composition project will be a short, eight- to sixteen-measure hand-written piece for your own instrument or voice that implements at least two contrasting rhythmic ideas. The pieces will be performed in class during our class sessions in Week 9.

Composition Project 2

Your second and final composition project for the semester will be a solo piece for one of your classmates' instruments or voices in a given mode/scale. These pieces will be performed during our final exam time on **Wednesday, December 11th from 3:20 to 5:20PM.**

Listening Journals

Students submit listening in the form as postings on the online forum of Moodle. Each week, we will listen to a piece, and often begin a discussion of that piece in the class session. Following that session, students will continue that discussion online by writing one original topic about the piece and two replies to other students' topics. Listening journals are *due before class on the Monday after the week they are assigned* (e.g. the week 1 listening journal is due on Tuesday, September 3rd, by 1:10PM).

Other Assignments

I will give other assignments as I deem effective to your growth as composers. The number of these assignments will be determined over the course of the semester, but their total weight will be 10% of your final grade.

Professionalism

Outside of this classroom, your level of professionalism will be one of the main factors contributing to your success as a composer or in other pursuits. Within the classroom, examples of professionalism include: respect for your colleagues and their ideas, preparation and active participation in class, punctuality, and ethical academic behavior.

Concert Attendance / Paper Requirement

Your attendance is required at the following two concerts:

Friday, September 6th, 7:30PM – **Mountain Computer Music Festival**
Washington Park Amphitheater

Thursday, November 21st, 7:30PM – **New Music Missoula MRH**

In lieu of attending any concert, you may write a ten-page scholarly essay on a topic of my choosing (with full bibliographic references) as a surrogate for the concert experience. These papers are due before the end of the day on Friday of Week 15.

Failure to attend a concert or submit the optional paper will prevent you from passing the class, no exceptions.

I present these requirements in the syllabus at the beginning of the term, so that, if the concert dates or the papers post and issue, you have the option to drop the class and register for a different course or register for MUST 180 in a different semester when you are able to fulfill the course requirements.

Laptop Policy

I do not permit the use of laptop computers (including iPads, Blackberries, Cellular Phones, etc.) during the lecture and discussion portions of the class. Our department is very interested in technology and its artistic and academic applications, but laptops are not appropriate for taking notes in this class, and we wish to avoid the potential for distraction to both laptop users and nearby students.

Cellphone Policy

Students may **not** use cellular phones in class. Cell phones ringing in class are inappropriate, discourteous and disruptive. All devices must be set to silent. If your cell phone rings in class, the appropriate response is for you to promptly turn it off, quietly gather up your belongings, and leave for the day. Additionally, students may not engage in text messaging during class sessions.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the "Student Conduct Code" available here: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

We take violations very seriously and they will be noted on student disciplinary records. **We will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism.** If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.